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Kazuma Aoki

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EXAMINER

NAJEE-ULLAH, TARIQ S

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 1, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. This Office action has been issued in response to Applicant's Amendment filed December 1, 2008. By action of this amendment claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 17 and 26 are amended, claims 18-25 are cancelled, and claims 29-33 are added. Claims 1-17 and 26-33 are pending in this application.

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 1-21 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been considered but are not persuasive. Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 17 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), Applicant argues that Tanimoto could not reasonably be combined with Shigeru since Tanimoto fails to disclose a portable operation member inserted into the opening of an interface unit of the communication system. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Firstly, Tanimoto is not relied

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upon to teach the removably insertable portable operation member. Shigeru is relied upon to teach the removably insertable portable operation member and associated aspects of the present invention. Furthermore, to provide the communication system of Tanimoto with the added functionality of a removably insertable portable operation member, i.e. IC card or portable small storage medium would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the teachings of Shigeru, since all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded nothing more than predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1, 17 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), Applicant argues that nothing in Shigeru teaches or suggests an operation detecting unit that is directly operated by a user. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Shigeru clearly teaches an IC card or memory card, i.e. removably insertable portable operation member, is a small storage medium with memory that contains the URL address of a website that is inserted into an IC card reader, i.e. detecting unit, mounted on the image forming device, i.e. communication device connected to a touch panel keyboard, i.e. detecting unit that is directly operated by a user, provides a network access function, i.e. the function of a switch (Shigeru, Abstract). The fact that an IC card is inserted into the IC card reader by a user is inherent. The use of a touch panel keyboard to obtain further user input also reads on direct operation by a user (Shigeru, Detailed Description, par. 59-60).

Examiner relies upon the disclosures of the prior art combination of Tanimoto (US 2002/0156923) and Shigeru (JP A 2002-091856) as a whole to reject the amended claims presented in this Amendment filed December 1, 2008. See full text of the detailed rejection of the amended claims presented below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 17, 26 and 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In response to this office action, Applicant can cancel the new matter or specifically point out where the newly claimed subject matter is supported in the original disclosure.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 17 and 29 recite "that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user." The terms "directly operated by a

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user” are vague and indefinite. With no additional limitations from the claim language, Examiner interprets this phrase in the broadest reasonable sense for the purposes of examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-17 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication 2002/0156923 to Tanimoto in view of Japanese Patent Application JP A 2002-091856 to Shigeru (Shigeru hereinafter) as provided in Applicant IDS submitted July 27, 2007.

Regarding claims 1, 17 and 29, Tanimoto teaches **a communication system** (Figure 1 and associated text; Tanimoto discloses a facsimile system, i.e. communication system.), **comprising: a communication device including: an accessing unit capable of accessing web pages** (Page 3, paragraph [0052];

Tanimoto discloses the facsimile machine, i.e. communication device, has an HTTP server means, i.e. accessing system, which can access data written in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) used for home pages, i.e. capable of accessing web pages.);

Tanimoto does not explicitly teach **an interface unit, the interface unit having an opening; and a data acquiring unit that acquires data via the interface unit; a portable operation member removably insertable into the opening of the interface**

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unit, the operation member including a memory that stores first access data corresponding to a first predetermined web page; and an operation detecting unit configured to detect, in a state that the portable operation member is inserted into the opening of the interface unit, that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user; wherein the data acquiring unit automatically acquires the first access data from the memory in response to a detection, detected by the operation member, that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user and the accessing unit automatically accesses the first predetermined web page based on the first access data acquired by the acquiring unit.

Shigeru teaches **an interface unit, the interface unit having an opening** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader mounted on the image forming device, i.e. communication device connected to a touch panel keyboard, i.e. interface unit, provides a network access function); **and a data acquiring unit that acquires data via the interface unit;** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader mounted on the image forming device, i.e. data acquiring unit); **a portable operation member removably insertable into the opening of the interface unit, the operation member including a memory** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card or memory card is a small storage medium with memory, i.e. removably insertable portable operation member, that is read by an IC card reader, i.e. interface unit containing an opening for the IC card, mounted on the image forming device) **that stores first access data corresponding to a first predetermined web page** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card or memory card is a small storage medium with

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memory, i.e. storage, that contains the URL address of a website, i.e. a first predetermined web page); **and an operation detecting unit configured to detect, in a state that the portable operation member is inserted into the opening of the interface unit, that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader, i.e. operation detecting unit, mounted on the image forming device connected to a touch panel keyboard provides a network access function; Shigeru clearly teaches an IC card or memory card, i.e. removably insertable portable operation member, is a small storage medium with memory that contains the URL address of a website that is inserted into an IC card reader, i.e. detecting unit, mounted on the image forming device, i.e. communication device connected to a touch panel keyboard, i.e. detecting unit that is directly operated by a user, provides a network access function, i.e. the function of a switch (Shigeru, Abstract). The fact that an IC card is inserted into the IC card reader by a user is inherent. The use of a touch panel keyboard to obtain further user input also reads on direct operation by a user (Shigeru, Detailed Description, par. 59-60).); **wherein the data acquiring unit automatically acquires the first access data from the memory in response to a detection, detected by the operation member, that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user and the accessing unit automatically accesses the first predetermined web page based on the first access data acquired by the acquiring unit** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader mounted on the image forming device connected to a touch panel keyboard provides a network access function. This allows the desired data to be read and obtained from anywhere with simple operation by utilizing the IC

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card). Shigeru also teaches this method being implemented using computer program code (Shigeru; Detailed Description: embodiment of the invention section, pars. 61-63) Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Furthermore, to provide the server device and communication system of Tanimoto with an IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, in view of the teachings of Shigeru, since all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded nothing more than predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Regarding claim 26, Tanimoto teaches **a communication system** (Figure 1 and associated text; Tanimoto discloses a facsimile system, i.e. communication system.), **comprising: instructions for causing the accessing system to access the predetermined web page based on the access data transmitted from the memory of the operation member** (Page 3, paragraph [0052]; Tanimoto discloses the facsimile

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machine, i.e. communication device, has an HTTP server means, i.e. accessing system, which can access data written in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) used for home pages, i.e. capable of accessing web pages.);

Tanimoto does not explicitly teach **instructions for detecting the an operation of a detecting unit, the operation caused by insertion of a portable operation member into an opening of an interface unit of the communication system; instructions for transmitting access data contained in a memory of the operation member to an accessing system of the communication system when the operation of the detecting unit is detected.**

Shigeru teaches **instructions for detecting the an operation of a detecting unit, the operation caused by insertion of a portable operation member into an opening of an interface unit of the communication system** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader mounted on the image forming device, i.e. communication device connected, i.e. detecting unit, to a touch panel keyboard, i.e. interface unit, provides a network access function; the IC card or memory card, i.e. portable operation member, is a small storage medium with memory that is read by an IC card reader, i.e. interface unit, mounted on the image forming device, i.e. communication system); **instructions for transmitting access data contained in a memory of the operation member to an accessing system of the communication system when the operation of the detecting unit is detected** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader, i.e. detecting unit, mounted on the image forming device connected to a touch panel keyboard provides a network access function. This allows the desired data to be read and obtained from

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anywhere with simple operation by utilizing the IC card, i.e. operating member).

Shigeru also teaches this method being implemented using computer program code (Shigeru; Detailed Description: embodiment of the invention section, pars. 61-63).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Furthermore, to provide the server device and communication system of Tanimoto with an IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, in view of the teachings of Shigeru, since all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded nothing more than predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Regarding claims 2 and 12, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claim 1 above including, **a transmitting system that transmits the first access data contained in the memory to the accessing system when the operation detecting unit is operated by the user; and wherein the**

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transmitting system is included in the portable operation member (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card or memory card, i.e. portable operation member, is a small storage medium with memory that is read by an IC card reader mounted on the image forming device); **the transmitting system determines whether a predetermined condition is satisfied when the detecting unit is operated** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader mounted on the image forming device connected to a touch panel keyboard provides a network access function. This allows the desired data to be read and obtained from anywhere with simple operation by utilizing the IC card. Printing information is stored in a predetermined format); **and the transmitting system transmits the first access data the memory to the accessing system when the predetermined condition is satisfied** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card reader mounted on the image forming device connected to a touch panel keyboard provides a network access function. This allows the desired data to be read and obtained from anywhere with simple operation by utilizing the IC card).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Regarding claims 3 and 15, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claims 1 and 13 including, **wherein: the portable operation member includes:** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card or memory card is a small storage medium with memory that is read by an IC card reader mounted on the image forming device); Shigeru does not teach **and a counting system that counts the number of times by which the first access data is transmitted from the memory to the accessing system, and wherein the transmitting system determines that the predetermined condition is satisfied if the number of times counted by the counting system is less than a predetermined number the transmitting system determining the predetermined condition is not satisfied if the number of times counted by the counting system has reached the predetermined number.**

Tanimoto teaches **and a counting system that counts the number of times by which the first access data is transmitted from the memory to the accessing system, and wherein the transmitting system determines that the predetermined condition is satisfied if the number of times counted by the counting system is less than a predetermined number the transmitting system determining the predetermined condition is not satisfied if the number of times counted by the counting system has reached the predetermined number** (Fig. 15A and 15B; Tanimoto discloses views showing an example of the display of the browser at the time of thread displaying of the saved image data. The display indicates the number of transmitted pages, the date and time of the transmission, the job order, and the destinations of the transmission. The display also indicated what operation was

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performed: retransmission, partial transmission, and records how many destinations were indicated. This indicates there is inherently a counting system that keeps track of transmissions in the transmitting system; see pg. 7, par. [0104]. Pg. 7, Par. [0108-0110]; The facsimile server judges which actions to perform based on a predetermined condition that presents different cases or courses of action.).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Regarding claims 11, 13, and 15, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claims 1 and 12 including, **wherein: the communication device includes: a device side detection system that detects if the detecting unit is operated** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card or memory card is a small storage medium with memory that is read by an IC card reader mounted on the image forming device); Shigeru does not explicitly teach **and a notification system that notifies that the first access data is not received because the predetermined condition is not satisfied when the first access data is not transmitted from the memory of the operation member for a predetermined period.**

Tanimoto teaches **a notification system that notifies that the first access data is not received because the predetermined condition is not satisfied when the first access data is not transmitted from the memory of the operation member for a predetermined period** (Fig. 15A and 15B; Tanimoto discloses views showing an example of the display of the browser at the time of thread displaying of the saved image data. The display indicates the number of transmitted pages, the date and time of the transmission, the job order, and the destinations of the transmission. The display also indicated what operation was performed: retransmission, partial transmission, and records how many destinations were indicated. This indicates there is inherently a notification system that keeps track of transmissions in the transmitting system; see pg. 7, par. [0104]. Pg. 7, Par. [0108-0110]; The facsimile server judges which actions to perform based on a predetermined condition that presents different cases or courses of action.).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Regarding claims 4, 7 and 14, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claims 3 and 13 above including, **wherein: the communication device includes: a count inquiry system that transmits a count inquiry signal inquiring the number counted by the counting system to the operation member** (Fig. 15A and 15B; Tanimoto discloses views showing an example of the display of the browser at the time of thread displaying of the saved image data. The display indicates the number of transmitted pages, the date and time of the transmission, the job order, and the destinations of the transmission. The display also indicated what operation was performed: retransmission, partial transmission, and records how many destinations were indicated. This indicates there is inherently a counting system that keeps track of transmissions in the transmitting system; see pg. 7, par. [0104]. Pg. 7, Par. [0108-0110]; The facsimile server judges which actions to perform based on a predetermined condition that presents different cases or courses of action.); **and a count notifying system that notifies the number counted by the counting system based on a count response signal which is transmitted by the operation member in response to the count inquiry signal transmitted thereto; and the operation member includes a count response system that outputs the count response signal to the communication device in response to the count inquiry signal transmitted from the communication device** (Fig. 15A and 15B; Tanimoto discloses views showing an example of the display of the browser at the time of thread displaying of the saved image data. The display indicates the number of transmitted pages, the date and time of the transmission, the job order, and the

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destinations of the transmission. The display also indicated what operation was performed: retransmission, partial transmission, and records how many destinations were indicated. This indicates there is inherently a counting system that keeps track of transmissions in the transmitting system; see pg. 7, par. [0104]. Pg. 7, Par. [0108-0110]; The facsimile server judges which actions to perform based on a predetermined condition that presents different cases or courses of action.).

Regarding claims 5 and 8, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claims 4 and 7 above including, **wherein the count inquiry system transmits the count inquiry signal when the first access data is transmitted from the memory of the operation member** (Fig. 15A and 15B; Tanimoto discloses views showing an example of the display of the browser at the time of thread displaying of the saved image data. The display indicates the number of transmitted pages, the date and time of the transmission, the job order, and the destinations of the transmission. The display also indicated what operation was performed: retransmission, partial transmission, and records how many destinations were indicated. This indicates there is inherently a counting system that keeps track of transmissions in the transmitting system; see pg. 7, par. [0104]. Pg. 7, Par. [0108-0110]; The facsimile server judges which actions to perform based on a predetermined condition that presents different cases or courses of action.).

Regarding claims 6 and 9, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claims 4 and 7 above including, **wherein the communication device includes an attachment detection system that detects the insertion of the operation member into the opening** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC card or memory card is a small storage medium with memory that is read by an IC card reader mounted on the image forming device), **the count inquiry system outputting the count inquiry signal when the attachment detection system detects the insertion of the operation member** (Shigeru; IC card read station controller, Detailed Description: embodiment of the invention section, pars. 22-30).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Regarding claims 10 and 16, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claims 2 and 12 above including, **wherein: the memory contains second access data indicating a second web page** (Shigeru; Detailed Description: embodiment of the invention section, par. 60; URL address list means more than one web page can be stored on the IC card, i.e. a second web page is accessible

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using the operation member); **and the transmitting system transmits the second access data stored in the memory to the accessing system if the predetermined condition is not satisfied when the detecting unit is operated** (Shigeru; Detailed

Description: embodiment of the invention section, par. 60; URL address list means more than one web page can be stored on the IC card, i.e. a second web page is accessible using the operation member; IC card reader, i.e. detecting unit; Abstract).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Regarding claim 27, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claim 1 above including, **wherein the memory comprises a ROM, the ROM storing the first access data** (Shigeru; Detailed Description: embodiment of the invention section, pars. 23-24, 26, 29-30, 64).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network

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system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Regarding claim 28, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claim 13 above including, **wherein the memory comprises a ROM and a RAM, the ROM storing the first access data and the RAM storing the transmission number** (Shigeru; Detailed Description: embodiment of the invention section, pars. 23-24, 26, 29-30, 64, 67).

Tanimoto and Shigeru are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of network communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use Shigeru's IC card or small storage medium with preloaded website information with Tanimoto's server device and network system. The suggestion/motivation would have been to provide an image forming device and an image forming method by which image data obtained through a network can be easily printed (Shigeru; Abstract, problem to be solved).

Regarding claims 30-33, Tanimoto-Shigeru discloses the invention substantially as described in claims 1, 17, 26 and 29 above including, **wherein an operation of the operation detecting unit includes depression of the portable operation member by the user** (Shigeru; Abstract; IC Card and IC card reader mounted on the image forming device connected to a touch panel keyboard suggests a "key" being depressed that is associated with the IC Card, i.e. portable operation member, IC card reader, i.e.

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detecting unit, and a touch panel keyboard, i.e. depression of the portable operation member).

Conclusion

11. In conclusion, in an effort to better place the claims in condition for allowance, Examiner encourages further modification of claim language to include language that is more precisely descriptive and provides a more clear representation of what the Applicant presents as the invention in the specification in a manner which overcomes the prior art as presented. Examiner also reminds Applicant that although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TARIQ S. NAJEE-ULLAH whose telephone number is (571)270-5013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 - 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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T. N.

/Yasin M Barqadle/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2456